

a memory coupled to the tuner for storing data in the received broadcast signal in a database;

a user interface for providing a set of menus describing the database, and for accepting selections from the set of menus;

a controller coupled to the memory and the user interface for selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selections and providing the selected data in a digital form; and

a speech producing sub-system coupled to the controller and the memory for converting the selected data from digital form to an analog signal.

33. The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory stores the entire database.

34. The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory comprises a combination of a volatile RAM memory and a non-volatile memory.

35. The device of Claim 34, wherein the non-volatile memory is selected from the group consisting of an audio tape, a magneto-optical mini-disk, a magnetic disk or an optical disk.

36. The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is audio data that has been converted from analog form to digital form.

37. The device of Claim 36, wherein the received digitized audio data is digitized and has been compressed.

38. The device of Claim 36, wherein the digitized audio data has been encrypted.

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39. The device of Claim 1, wherein the received data is alphanumeric data that has been converted from analog form to digital form.

40. The device of Claim 39, wherein the alphanumeric data is converted to voice data by a speech synthesizer.

41. The device of Claim 1, wherein the data is in digital form, has been encrypted and compressed, and further comprising a decryptor for decrypting the data.

42. The device of Claim 41, wherein said system has a decompression algorithm to decompress data that has been compressed at a transmitter prior to being broadcast.

43. The device of Claim 41, wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key received by the tuner.

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44. (Amended) The device of Claim 41, wherein the decryptor is enabled by a key device operatively connected to the decryptor.

45. The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface is voice activated.

46. The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes:

a manual input device adapted to be mountable on an automobile steering wheel; and  
a link from the manual input device to the controller.

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47. (Amended) The device of Claim 1, wherein the user interface includes a control for determining a speed at which the speech producing sub-system outputs the analog signal.

48. The device of Claim 1, wherein the tuner channel skips to tune to a particular transmitter.

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49. (Amended) The device of Claim 1, further comprising:

an amplifier connected to the speech producing sub-system for amplifying the analog signal; and  
means for converting the amplified signal to sound.

50. (Amended) The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for connecting the receiver to an automobile radio set.

51. The device of Claim 1, further comprising means for designating by a broadcaster of the broadcast signal a hierarchy for the database.

52. The device of Claim 1, wherein the memory stores the data received in a random access memory up to the capacity of the random access memory before transferring said data to one of a disk medium or a tape medium.

53. The device of Claim 52, wherein the tape medium is a digital audio tape.

54. The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is a magnetic disk.

55. The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is a magnetic-optical disk.

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56. The device of Claim 52, wherein the disk medium is an optical disk.

57. The device of Claim 1, wherein a speed of transmission of the data in the broadcast signal is varied to most efficiently use the available bandwidth.

58. A method for information dissemination comprising the acts of:

receiving the information;

storing the received information in a database;

providing a set of menus describing the database;

accepting selections from the set of menus;

selecting data from the database in response to the accepted selection;

providing the selected data in digital form; and

converting the selected data to an analog signal.

59. The method of Claim 58, wherein the received information is transmitted by a broadcast signal.

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